



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER  
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

March 30, 2011

Assemblyman Gorell  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 77 (Gorell)**

Dear Assemblyman Gorell:

I am writing to express my strong **support** for your Assembly Bill 77.

AB 77 abolishes the Franchise Tax Board and transfers the agency's powers and duties—as well as the tax administrative functions of the Employment Development Department and the Department of Insurance—to the State Board of Equalization, effective January 1, 2013.

Because California's tax revenue collection agencies—BOE and FTB—perform many of the same functions, it makes sense that they should be consolidated into the State Board of Equalization. This will save state dollars, improve tax enforcement, and provide significant efficiency for taxpayers.

In any consolidation effort it is vital that the Board of Equalization retain oversight of California's tax agencies. Through their elected representatives taxpayers have access to assistance in navigating what are often confusing tax policies and regulations. They also have access to a process by which they can appeal to elected officials accountable to them when they do not agree with the decisions made by agency staff.

Thank you for authoring this important legislation. I look forward to working with you as the measure makes its way through the process.

Sincerely,

Senator George Runner, Member  
California State Board of Equalization

GR:dd

cc: Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee Members